

ELECTION OF INVENTION

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Restriction has been required as between the following allegedly distinct groups of inventions, without specification of claim numbers:

Group I : the species of Fig. 1a.

Group II : the species of Fig. 1b.

Group III: the species of Fig. 3b.

Group IV: the species of Fig. 3c.

Group V: the species of Fig. 4a.

Group VI: the species of Fig. 4b.

Group VII: the species of Fig. 5b.

Applicants hereby elect Group IV (claims 1 through 14), with traverse with respect to the restriction between Groups I, II, III; IV, V, VI, and VII. Applicants expressly reserve their right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

Should the Examiner uphold the restriction requirement with respect to Groups I, II, III, V, VI, and VII and the product claim is subsequently found allowable, applicants reserve the right to request rejoinder of withdrawn process claims which include all the limitations of the allowable product claim for examination (M.P.E.P. §821.04).

Applicants request that, upon allowance of a generic claim, the remainder of the species be included as permitted by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a).

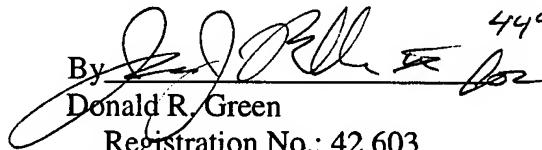
CONCLUSION

Applicants request reconsideration of the restriction requirement and examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 146712014900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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